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Urgent

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Date: 24-Jan-07

To:		**Art Unit:**
Examiner: Kenneth R. Coulter **USPTO**	(571) 273-8300	2141
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Subject:
Application No.: 09/891,225
Filed: 6/26/2001 **Inventor:** Dale T. Taylor **Docket No.:** P280336.P11802

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Response (8 pages)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Application Number	09/891,225
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First Named Inventor	Dale T. Taylor
Art Unit	2141
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ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☑ Amendment/Reply
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  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
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- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Dale T. Taylor, et al.

App. Serial. No.: 09/891,225

Filed: 6/26/2001

Title: COALESCING INFORMATION FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES BASED ON PRIORITY RULES

Group Art Unit: 2141

Examiner: Kenneth R. Coulter

Telephone: 571-272-3879

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RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Appellant filed an Appeal Brief for the present application on October 3, 2006 (the "Appeal Brief"). Appellant subsequently received a Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v), dated January 3, 2007, (the "Notice"). On January 22, 2007, Appellant telephoned the Examiner to ask which specific provision of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v) supported the Notice. Appellant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of accepting the call and confirming that the Notice was directed to the requirement for a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims, with reference to the specification and drawings.

In response to the Notice, in accordance with MPEP § 1205.03(B), Appellant hereby submits the following replacement section, to replace the text under Section V (Summary of Claimed Subject Matter) of the Appeal Brief.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Simply stated and generally speaking, one embodiment of Appellant's invention (as captured in independent claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, 20, and 24) is directed to a method, system and article for coalescing information from multiple sources based on priority rules. Aggregated information gathered from multiple sources on a network (via or through agents) may contain duplicate data. For example, when a network manager sends inquiries to multiple agents to search for an available router device, more than one agent may respond (e.g., multiple routers are available) (Specification page 2, paragraphs 3-4).

According to embodiments of the present invention, a system may include multiple agents associated with corresponding device groups. The system may also include a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism to connect with the agents via a network. The priority rule-based coalescing mechanism receives information related to the devices in the device groups from the corresponding agents, and coalesces the received information according to pre-defined priority rules. (Specification pages 4-5, paragraph 16; Figure 1).

In one embodiment, in the above configuration, an agent is capable of communicating with the devices in its device group that are running on different platforms and using different protocols. An agent serves as an interface between the devices in its device group and the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism and while interacting with the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, a uniform schema or convention is adopted. Thus, for example, a schema defined using the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) may be pre-specified to deliver the information from the agents to the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism. (Specification pages 5-6, paragraphs 18-19).

The eight subsections below recite each of the independent claims, and provide parentheticals that point to example embodiments of corresponding features in the specification and drawings.

Claim 1: A system, comprising:

a plurality of agents capable of receiving and sending formatted information from and to device groups, each of the device groups comprising devices capable of running on a plurality of different platforms using a plurality of different protocols via a network, the formatted information organized according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification pages 4-5, paragraphs 16-18; Figures 1-2); and

a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism connecting to the plurality of agents via the network, the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism capable of coalescing the formatted information received from the plurality of agents, the pre-defined syntax of the formatted information being recognized by the plurality of agents and the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism further coalescing the formatted information within a coalesced file and synchronizing the coalesced file according to corresponding priority rules defined with respect to each of the plurality of agents, the synchronized coalesced file then being processed to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification pages 4-5, 7-8, 18, paragraphs 16-18, 25-26, 48, 51; Figures 1-5).

Claim 4: A priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, comprising:

a network communication mechanism for receiving formatted information from an agent coupled to a device group comprising devices capable of running on a plurality of platforms using a plurality of protocols, the formatted information generated according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification pages 4-5, 8-9, paragraphs 16-18, 27-30; Figures 2-3);

a priority rule database for storing priority rules defined with respect to the agent (see, e.g., Specification pages 9-10, paragraphs 31-32; Figure 3-4); and

a coalescing mechanism for coalescing and synchronizing the formatted information in a coalesced file according to the priority rules retrieved from the priority rule database, the pre-defined syntax of the formatted information being recognized by the agent and the coalescing mechanism, the coalescing mechanism further capable of generating an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification pages 8-10, 14-16, paragraphs 27-32, 41, 44-46; Figure 3-5).

Claim 7: A method, comprising:

sending, by a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, an inquiry to an agent to gather information from a device group associated with the agent, the device group comprising devices capable of running on a plurality of platforms using a plurality of protocols (see, e.g., Specification pages 5-6, 14-15, paragraphs 16-21, 41; Figures 1-2);

collecting, by the agent, the information from the device group according to the inquiry (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

constructing formatted information based on the information obtained from the device group according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

sending the formatted information to the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

retrieving, by the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

Claim 11: A method for a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, comprising:

sending an inquiry to an agent to gather information from a device group associated with the agent, the device group comprising devices capable of running on a plurality of different platforms using a plurality of different protocols (see, e.g., Specification pages 5-6, 14-15, paragraphs 16-21, 41; Figures 1-2);

receiving formatted information from the agent, formatted information being constructed according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

retrieving priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

Claim 14: A method, comprising:

receiving, by an agent associating with a device group that comprises devices capable of running on a plurality of different platforms using a plurality of different protocols, information pertaining to the devices (Specification pages 5-6, 17, paragraphs 18-21, 48; Figures 1-2, 6);

constructing formatted information based on the information received from the devices according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

sending the formatted information to a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

retrieving, by the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an update coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

Claim 17: A method for a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, comprising:

receiving formatted information from an agent associated with a device group comprising devices capable of running on a plurality of different platforms using a plurality of different protocols, formatted information being constructed based on the information, obtained from the devices, according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification pages 5-6, 17, paragraphs 18-21, 48; Figures 1-2, 6);

retrieving priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

Claim 20: A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a program, the program, when executed causing:

sending, by a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, an inquiry to an agent to gather information from a device group associated with the agent (see, e.g., Specification pages 5-6, 14-15, paragraphs 16-21, 41; Figures 1-2);

collecting, by the agent, the information from the device group according to the inquiry (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

constructing formatted information based on the information obtained from the device group according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

sending the formatted information to the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

retrieving, by the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

Claim 22: A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a program for a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, the program, when executed causing:

sending an inquiry to an agent to gather information from a device group associated with the agent, the device group comprising devices capable of running on a plurality of different platforms using a plurality of different protocols (see, e.g., Specification pages 5-6, 14-15, paragraphs 16-21, 41; Figures 1-2);

receiving formatted information from the agent, formatted information being constructed according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

retrieving priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

Claim 24: A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a program, the program, when executed, causing:

receiving, by an agent associating with a device group that comprises devices capable of running on a plurality of different platforms using a plurality of different protocols, information from the devices (Specification pages 5-6, 17, paragraphs 18-21, 48; Figures 1-2, 6);

constructing formatted information based on the information received from the devices according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

sending the formatted information to a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism (see, e.g., Specification page 17, paragraph 48; Figure 6);

retrieving, by the priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

Claim 26: A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a program for a priority rule-based coalescing mechanism, the program, when executed, causing:

receiving formatted information from an agent associated with a device group comprising at least one devices capable of running on a plurality of different platforms using a plurality of different protocols, formatted information being constructed based on the information, obtained from the devices, according to a pre-defined syntax (see, e.g., Specification pages 5-6, 17, paragraphs 18-21, 48; Figures 1-2, 6);

retrieving priority rules associated with the agent from a priority rule database (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5); and

coalescing the formatted information based on the priority rules to generate an updated coalesced file (see, e.g., Specification page 16, paragraph 46; Figure 5).

CONCLUSION

Appellant respectfully requests consideration of the Appeal Brief in conjunction with the replacement section provided above.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2007

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